

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 13, 2002      LB 1054

clerk no later than February 1 prior to the primary election. And I might mention this is only in counties with county clerks. Currently, political parties are required to submit names 60 days before the primary election. The task force heard concerns that county clerks do not have enough time to do their own recruiting if the political parties do not submit enough names. By moving the date to February 1, you are coinciding with the date when counties have to submit the number of precinct delegates to the county convention, so it was thought that that would be convenient. The second area is poll worker wages. Election commissioners and county clerks are allowed to set the rate of pay for poll workers with the minimum wage as a floor. The bill eliminates the language which only allows the poll workers to receive pay for up to 15 hours of work. Also, any person will be excused from any shift work without loss of pay for the hours he or she is required to serve as a poll worker and for eight hours before or after the hours he or she is required to serve. So if you work from 11 to 7 in the morning, 11 at night to 7 in the morning, and you want to be a poll worker, you could be excused from that 11 to 7 shift, just as you would be excused from working the polls from 8 till 5, or whatever needed to be. All of these recommendations were adopted in a response to concerns about recruiting poll workers and compensating them fairly for their work. The fourth area is poll worker training, and the bill says that poll workers will receive training before the primary and before the general election. And the training will include instruction to be provided by the Secretary of State. And any of you who just watched that recent election in which there was a serious error that threw out 200 and some ballots, will know how necessary this particular provision is. The fifth provision has to do with provisional balloting, and that is a process by which a person who wants to vote but his name does not appear on the register can vote upon completion of a voter registration form and the ballot envelope will be marked "provisional ballot." The person will sign an oath stating he or she is registered to vote and indicate when and how he or she is registered to vote, and then that will be checked by the election commissioner or county clerk to make certain that it's valid, and then the vote will be counted if so; if not, the vote will not be counted. And I might mention that we are probably going to be mandated to